

I am deeply disturbed by the recent decision of Sinclair to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary only days before a closely held election. This is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation to this democracy.

When a large company like Sinclair is allowed this much informational power, it begins to erode the possibility of dissenting opinion, and an exchange of ideas. Sinclair is obligated by law to serve the public interest with the free use of the air waves. They are currently abusing their privilege with their recent decisions and actions. This is a wake up call to limit the consolidation of media. The more news is consolidated, the less common it is to see our local issues, or the impact of national issues locally.

Sinclair's actions demonstrate a need to strengthen media ownership rules, and to add a rigorous but fair license renewal process. The airways are free of charge – they should be used fairly and for the benefit of an informed electorate. The Sinclair action is an abuse of this trust, and demonstrates the need for a license renewal process that holds those using our airways accountable – certainly more review is needed for renewal than a simple returned postcard.

Thank you.